

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 12, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2339

Introduced by Assembly Members Williams and V. Manuel Pérez

February 24, 2012

An act to add Section 25228 to the Public Resources Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2339, as amended, Williams. Energy: geothermal technologies.

The Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) and requires the Energy Commission to, among other things, serve as a central repository within the state government for the collection, storage, retrieval, and dissemination of data and information on all forms of energy supply, demand, conservation, public safety, research, and related subjects.

This bill would require the Energy Commission, by July 1, 2013, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, State Air Resources Board, and other stakeholders, to evaluate *and recommend* policies *and implementation strategies* to overcome barriers to the widespread deployment and use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 25228 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

25228. On or before July 1, 2013, the commission, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, State Air Resources Board, and other stakeholders, shall evaluate *and recommend* policies *and implementation strategies* to overcome barriers to the widespread deployment and use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies. In evaluating these policies *and strategies*, the commission shall consider all of the following:

(a) The *quantitative* benefits and costs to ratepayers specific to safer, more reliable, or less costly gas or electrical service and through greater energy efficiency, reduction of health and environmental impacts from air pollution, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions related to electricity and natural gas production and use, through the use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies.

(b) The existing statutory and permit requirements that impact the widespread use of geothermal heat pumps and geothermal ground loop technologies and any other existing legal impediments to the widespread use of geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies.

(c) The impact of widespread use of the geothermal heat pump and geothermal ground loop technologies on achieving the state's goals pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code) and achieving the state's energy efficiency goals.